

Maryland Historical Trust

Maryland Inventory of Historic Properties Form

Survey No. B-4966

1. Name

Historic 209 – 231 South Vincent Street
and / common

2. Location

street & number 209 – 231 South Vincent Street
city, town Baltimore
state & zip code Maryland 21205 county

3. Classification

Category	Ownership	Status	Present Use	
<input type="checkbox"/> district	<input type="checkbox"/> public	X occupied	<input type="checkbox"/> agriculture	<input type="checkbox"/> museum
X building(s)	X private	<input type="checkbox"/> unoccupied	<input type="checkbox"/> commercial	<input type="checkbox"/> park
<input type="checkbox"/> structure	<input type="checkbox"/> both	<input type="checkbox"/> work in progress	<input type="checkbox"/> educational	X private residence
<input type="checkbox"/> site	Public Acquisition	Accessible	<input type="checkbox"/> entertainment	<input type="checkbox"/> religious
<input type="checkbox"/> object	<input type="checkbox"/> in process	X yes: restricted	<input type="checkbox"/> government	<input type="checkbox"/> scientific
	<input type="checkbox"/> being considered	<input type="checkbox"/> yes: unrestricted	<input type="checkbox"/> industrial	<input type="checkbox"/> transportation
	<input type="checkbox"/> not applicable	<input type="checkbox"/> no	<input type="checkbox"/> military	<input type="checkbox"/> other:

4. Owner of Property

name
street & number telephone
city, town state & zip code

5. Location of Legal Description

courthouse, registry of deeds, etc. Baltimore City Land Records liber
street & number Clarence Mitchell Courthouse folio
city, town Baltimore State Maryland

6. Representation in Existing Historical Surveys

title
date federal state county local
depository for survey records
city, town state & zip code

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7. Description

Condition

☐ excellent
☐ good
☒ fair

☐ deteriorated
☐ ruins
☐ unexposed

Check One

☐ unaltered
☒ altered

Check One

☒ original site
☐ moved:
date of move: _____

Prepare both a summary paragraph and a general description of the resource and its various elements as it exists today.

The east side of the 200 block of S. Vincent St. has been developed with three different groups of Italianate-style houses.

209-211 are early Italianate-style houses with shed roofs and probably a simple wooden bracketed cornice, that have been completely covered with formstone. All original details are obscured, but the houses probably resembled those next door, at 213-219 S. Vincent St. This group of four two-story, two-bay-wide houses with simple, scroll-sawn bracketed cornices were built c. 1875. The houses retain their original brick facades, which were always painted.

213-219 S. Vincent St are two stories in height, two rooms deep, with a one-story backbuilding. The houses are constructed in running bond and were originally painted. Each house has a single hooded chimney located at the rear corner of the house. The shed roofs are capped by a wooden cornice consisting of a crown molding supported by two long scroll-sawn end brackets decorated with grooves and turnings that connect to a lower molding strip and end with a distinct trefoil pattern. A row of simple grooved modillions decorates the frieze area. The tall, narrow window and door openings have splayed brick lintels and sills. One set of the original 2/2 sash survives, but the other openings are empty or boarded over. Doorways may have had narrow single-light transoms, but these too are boarded over. The houses have no basements, each entrance being reached by a single concrete step.

221-231 are late Italianate-style two-story, two-bay-wide houses with elaborate wooden scroll-sawn bracketed cornices, built c. 1885. Most of the houses retain their original brick facades, which were always painted. One has been covered with formstone, another with stucco. The houses are two stories in height, three small rooms deep and there is no backbuilding. The houses are constructed in running bond and were originally painted. Each also shows a richly decorated façade. Each house has a single hooded chimney located at the rear corner of the house. The shed roofs are capped by a wooden cornice consisting of a crown molding supported by three long scroll-sawn wooden brackets decorated with grooves and turnings that connect to a lower molding strip, decorated with a row of quarter-rounds, and end with a distinct trefoil pattern. The frieze area, which also serves as ventilation for the attic, is decorated with a sophisticated pattern of four-petaled and leaf-like shapes framed by double vertical grooves, all created with a jig-saw. The tall, narrow window and door openings have segmentally arched brick lintels that have a decorative projecting arched and keystone cap. The windows have scroll-sawn tympanums and brick sills. Several sets of the original 2/2 sash survive, but the other openings have 1/1 replacement sash. Doorways have single-light transoms, but several have been covered over. The houses sit on low basements, lit by a double-light sash, also with a scroll-sawn tympanum. Each entrance is reached by three brick or concrete steps.

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8. Significance

Period	Area of significance	check one & justify			
<input type="checkbox"/> prehistoric	<input type="checkbox"/> archeology-prehistoric	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> community planning	<input type="checkbox"/> landscape architecture	<input type="checkbox"/> religion	
<input type="checkbox"/> 1400-1499	<input type="checkbox"/> archeology-historic	<input type="checkbox"/> conservation	<input type="checkbox"/> law	<input type="checkbox"/> science	
<input type="checkbox"/> 1500-1599	<input type="checkbox"/> agriculture	<input type="checkbox"/> economics	<input type="checkbox"/> literature	<input type="checkbox"/> sculpture	
<input type="checkbox"/> 1600-1699	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> architecture	<input type="checkbox"/> education	<input type="checkbox"/> military	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> social/	
<input type="checkbox"/> 1700-1799	<input type="checkbox"/> art	<input type="checkbox"/> engineering	<input type="checkbox"/> music	<input type="checkbox"/> humanitarian	
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1800-1899	<input type="checkbox"/> commerce	<input type="checkbox"/> exploration	<input type="checkbox"/> philosophy	<input type="checkbox"/> theatre	
<input type="checkbox"/> 1900	<input type="checkbox"/> communications	<input type="checkbox"/> industry	<input type="checkbox"/> politics/government	<input type="checkbox"/> transportation	
		<input type="checkbox"/> invention		<input type="checkbox"/> other: specify	

Specific dates c. 1875 - 1885

Builder/Architect

Prepare both a summary paragraph of significance and a general statement of history and support.

This group of houses is significant in that it represents the level of architectural stylishness achieved by many builders of small street houses in the years after the Civil War when these same builders were erecting large, fashionable houses on the main streets, often facing parks or squares. While building three-story houses on the main streets that might sell for \$2,500 - \$3,500, they were also providing decent, inexpensive housing for the local working classes that might sell for \$700 - \$900. The houses were built according to a pattern that was quite common to all of the city's neighborhoods of the period c. 1870 to 1910. Recognizing that people held different levels of jobs (and pay), builders created a hierarchy of house sizes (and prices) in the new middle-class neighborhoods going up in west and east Baltimore. Builders acquired anywhere from an eighth to a half of a city block and built 15' to 18'-wide three-story houses on the main streets (priced at different levels according to the importance of the street and the house width), and smaller, 11' to 13'-wide two-story houses on the narrower streets bisecting the blocks.

Builders usually sold their small street houses to German-American semi-skilled workers and laborers who received mortgages from the wide variety of community and ethnically-sponsored building and loan associations. Occasionally, the builder retained ownership of his small street houses to provide income for himself as rental properties or sold them to other investors. In this way people of varying means could afford to live in the same block. If they couldn't afford the approximately \$750 purchase price of the small street houses, then they *could* afford the \$8 or so a month it would cost to rent one, while they saved to be able to buy their own home later.

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9. Major Bibliographic References

Mary Ellen Hayward and Charles Belfoure, *The Baltimore Rowhouse*
(New York: Princeton Architectural Press, 1999)

10. Geographic Data

Acreage of nominated property

Quadrangle name

Verbal boundary description and justification

11. Form Prepared by

name / title Dr. Mary Ellen Hayward

Organization The Alley House Project

date

street & number 1306 Carrollton Ave.

telephone

city, town Baltimore

state & zip code Maryland 21204

The Maryland Historic Sites Inventory was officially created by an Act of the Maryland Legislature to be found in the Annotated Maryland, Article 41, section 181 KA, 1974 supplement.

The survey and inventory are being prepared for information and record purposes only and do not constitute any infringement of rights.

Return to:

DHCP/DHCD

Maryland Historical Trust

100 Community Place

Crownsville MD 21032-2023





209-211
209-233 S. Vincent
SWB-3

B-4966
209-231 S. Vincent St
BALTO. MD
C. Belford
5/98
MO SHPO
1/4

209-231 S. Vincent St



213-219
205-211 S. Vincent
SWB-3

S-4966
204-231 S. Vincent S-
BACCO MID
Co. Belfaire
2198

212-214



221-231 S. Vincent

B-4946

2WB-3

204-231 S. Vincent St.

BALTO, MD

C. Briffance

2/98

3/4



223 S. Vinant

SWB-3

B-4966

223 S. Vinant St.

BALTO. MD

C. Belding

2/98

4/4

1120 608000